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FORTHCOMING ISSUES

ISSUE (QUARTER)

August 2008

Release Date

20 August 2008

INQUIRIES

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This products replaces and combines the information contained in:

1307.8 Australian Capital Territory in Focus

1381.8 ACT and Region... A Statistical Atlas

1344.8.55.001 ACT Stats

In fACT provides statistical analysis and commentary on a wide range of issues and draws extensively on information provided from other agencies together with ABS data. Key indicators provide a quick reference to social and economic statistics while quantitative analysis on various subjects surrounding the economy, the environment and social statistics are included. It also contains topical articles together with easy to interpret maps of Canberra and the surrounding region.

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FEATURE ARTICLE: FROM PAPER TO PC ... AND ONWARDS

In fACT - Statistical Information on the ACT and Region

... is the principal reference work produced by the Australian Capital Territory regional office of the Australian Bureau of Statistics. To be released quarterly, it provides a comprehensive and detailed statistical overview of various aspects of the territory's economy, social conditions, environment and the wider Australian capital region. It is statistically oriented with tables, graphs and diagrams and contains background information to assist the reader in the understanding and interpretation of the data. Each release will also contain descriptive articles on topics that affect the ACT and region.

In fACT presents a contemporary look at the Australian Capital Territory and will be updated on a regular basis. The principal source of statistics are from collections conducted by the ABS. In addition, a substantial amount of information, both descriptive and statistical, is sourced from other agencies, such as ACT government, industry bodies and other statistical agencies. By taking advantage of on-line data communication we are able to organise and present relevant ABS and other information relating to the ACT and region in a useful and readily available format.

This new product combines information from the paper publications ACT in Focus; ACT and Region ... A Social Atlas and ACT Stats and enhances data contained in them. It will allow the user access to more complex spreadsheets in addition to providing live links to content relevant to the ACT region. Summary information relating to various topics will also be included.

In addition to providing access to free statistics on the website we offer a tailored fee-based consultancy service which provides expert advice and accurate information on a variety of data needs.

Commencing May 2008 In fACT will progressively build a comprehensive collection of statistical information. As data becomes available regular updates will occur with substantial input on a quarterly basis during the months of May, August, November and February.

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POPULATION

ESTIMATED RESIDENT POPULATION

		Australian Capital Territory	Australia
Sep Qtr 07			
Estimated resident population	persons	p340 325	p21 097 148
Percentage change from previous quarter	%	p0.1	p0.4

p preliminary figure or series subject to revision

Source: Australian Demographic Statistics (cat. no. 3101.0).

MEDIAN AGE OF POPULATION

Australian Capital Territory	Australia
years	years

2007

34.6

36.8

Source: Population by Age and Sex, Australian States and Territories (cat. no. 3201.0).

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EDUCATION

SCHOOLS, By category

	Government no.	Non-government no.	All schools no.
Australian Capital Territory			
2006	95	44	139
2007	88	44	132

Source: Schools, Australia (cat. no. 4221.0).

STUDENTS

Australian Capital Territory no.	Australia no.
-------------------------------------	------------------

2006	59 767	3 393 242
2007	59 566	3 441 026

Source: Schools, Australia (cat. no. 4221.0).

APPARENT RETENTION RATES, Full-time students

	Australian Capital Territory	Australia
	%	%
Year 7/8 to Year 12		
2006	88.7	74.7
2007	85.2	74.3

Source: Schools, Australia (cat. no. 4221.0).

EDUCATIONAL PARTICIPATION AND ATTAINMENT, NON-SCHOOL - 2007

	Australian Capital Territory	Australia
	'000	'000
Persons enrolled in a course of study	54	2 489
Non-school qualification(a)		
Persons with a non-school qualification	142	7 165
Persons without a non-school qualification	88	6 465
Total persons aged 15-64 years	230	13 630

(a) Non-school qualification refers to educational attainments other than those of pre-primary, primary or secondary education.

Source: Education and Work, Australia (cat. no. 6227.0).

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CRIME

PRISONERS

2007

Prisoner counts

Australian Capital Territory	237
Australia	27 224

Crude imprisonment rate(a)

Australian Capital Territory	91
Australia	169

(a) Imprisonment rates are expressed as the number of persons in prison per 100,000 adult population.

Source: Prisoners in Australia (cat. no. 4517.0).

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TOURISM

TOURIST ACCOMMODATION: Hotels, motels and serviced apartments with 15 or more rooms

	Establishments no.	Takings from accommodation \$'000	Room occupancy rate %
Australian Capital Territory			
Dec Qtr 06	57	45 455	74.7
Dec Qtr 07	55	45 558	69.9

Source: Tourist Accommodation, Australia (cat. no. 8635.0).

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CONSUMER PRICE INDEX

CONSUMER PRICE INDEX

	Canberra %	Weighted average of 8 capital cities %
Mar Qtr 08		
Percentage change from previous period	1.4	1.3
Percentage change from corresponding quarter of previous year	4.6	4.2

Source: Consumer Price Index, Australia (cat. no. 6401.0).

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NATIONAL ACCOUNTS

STATE FINAL DEMAND^(a): Chain volume measures

	State final demand \$m	Percentage change from previous quarter %
Australian Capital Territory		
Mar Qtr 07	8 454.0	0.6
Jun Qtr 07	8 500.0	0.5
Sep Qtr 07	8 528.0	0.3
Dec Qtr 07	8 546.0	0.2

(a) Reference year for chain volume measures is 2005-06.

Source: Australian National Accounts: National Income, Expenditure and Product (cat. no. 5206.0).

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LABOUR FORCE

LABOUR FORCE STATUS^(a): Trend

		Australian Capital Territory	Australia
Apr 08			
Employed			
Total persons	'000	191.9	10 706.1
Change from previous month	'000	0.6	19.6
Percentage change from previous year	%	2.1	2.8
Unemployed			
Total persons	'000	5.6	453.1
Change from previous month	'000	0.2	-2.2
Percentage change from previous year	%	-4.0	-5.4

(a) Persons aged 15 years and over.

Source: Labour Force, Australia (cat. no. 6202.0).

LABOUR FORCE STATUS^(a): Trend

		Australian Capital Territory	Australia
Apr 08			
Participation rate			
Rate	%	73.0	65.3
Change from previous month	% pts	0.2	-
Change from previous year	% pts	-0.2	0.4
Unemployment rate			
Rate	%	2.8	4.1
Change from previous month	% pts	0.1	-
Change from previous year	% pts	-0.2	-0.3

- nil or rounded to zero (including null cells)

(a) Persons aged 15 years and over.

Source: Labour Force, Australia (cat. no. 6202.0).

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RETAIL TRADE

RETAIL TURNOVER^(a): Chain volume measures

		Australian Capital Territory	Australia
Mar Qtr 08			
Turnover	\$m	1 096.4	57 680.5
Percentage change from previous period	%	0.1	0.9
Percentage change from corresponding quarter of previous year	%	0.2	4.4

(a) Reference year for chain volume measures is 2005-06.

Source: Retail Trade, Australia (cat. no. 8501.0).

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BUILDING APPROVALS

BUILDING APPROVALS: Trend

		Australian Capital Territory	Australia
March 2008			
Number of dwelling units	no.	157	12 799
Percentage change from previous month	%	-7.6	-2.1

Source: Building Approvals, Australia (cat. no. 8731.0).

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HOUSING FINANCE

HOUSING FINANCE FOR OWNER OCCUPATION , Total new housing commitments: Trend

	Number of commitments no.	Value of commitments \$'000
February 2008		
Australian Capital Territory	842	210 164
Australia	63 765	15 063 200
March 2008		
Australian Capital Territory	843	209 115
Australia	62 920	14 879 440

Source: Housing Finance, Australia (cat. no. 5609.0).

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HOUSING PRICE INDEX

ESTABLISHED HOUSE PRICES

	Canberra %	Weighted average of 8 capital cities %
Mar Qtr 08		
Percentage change from previous quarter to current quarter	1.0	1.1
Percentage change from corresponding quarter of previous year	14.4	13.8

Source: House Price Indexes: Eight Capital Cities (cat. no. 6416.0)

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LATEST NEWS

Population growth

For the year ending 30 September 2007, the population of the Australian Capital Territory (ACT) increased by 5,200 people, bringing the estimated resident population to 340,300. The annual growth rate was 1.5%, which was the same as the national average, and the fastest population increase for the ACT since 1993 (1.2%) for years ending 30 September.

Country of birth

According to the [2006 Census of Population and Housing](#), a little over one in five (21.7%) ACT usual residents were born overseas, with the main overseas countries of birth being England (4% of ACT usual residents), New Zealand (1.2%), and China (1.1%). Nationally, 22.2% of Australian usual residents were born overseas.

Health

ACT residents were the most long-lived people in Australia in 2006, with the highest life expectancy at birth - 80.0 years for males and 83.9 years for females. For Australia, average life expectancy at birth was 78.7 years for males and 83.5 years for females.

Education

There were 132 schools in the ACT in 2007. Of these 88 were government and 44 non-government. The 44 non-government schools included 30 catholic and 14 independent.

In 2007 there were 59,397 full-time students attending ACT schools of which 1,166 were Indigenous. Government schools accounted for the majority with 58.3% of full time students. The balance attended non-government schools (41.7%).

Compared with other Australian states and territories, Canberrans in the 25 to 64 year age group in 2007 had the highest proportion of non-school qualifications (71%). Non-school qualifications include degrees, diplomas and certificates.

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LATEST NEWS

With the recent announcements of both federal and ACT government budgets, the ABS's latest economic releases have been eagerly anticipated.

Recent key releases have included:

- housing finance
- consumer and house price indexes
- labour force
- retail trade
- building approvals
- lending finance
- taxation revenue
- state final demand.

In trend terms, the number of housing commitments for owner occupation in the ACT, was 843 over March 2008. This was similar to the number recorded in recent months, back to November 2007. The value of these commitments in March 2008 was approximately \$209 million (trend), down approximately \$1 million in February 2008.

In original terms, the average loan size (derived) for ACT owner occupiers was \$240,000 in March 2008, down from \$241,000 in February 2008, and more than \$25,000 down from the high of \$266,000 recorded in December 2007.

Labour force for April 2008 - in trend terms the number of employed persons in the ACT was 191,900 a rise of 600 from March 2008 and the number of unemployed was 5,600, a rise of 200 from March 2008. The trend unemployment rate increased by 0.1 percentage point, from 2.7% to 2.8% and the participation rate rose by 0.2 percentage points, from 72.8% to 73.0%.

Nationally, the unemployment rate remained unchanged, in trend terms, between March and April 2008 (4.1%) The trend participation rate also remained unchanged (65.3%).

At the All groups level, the CPI for Canberra increased by 1.4% in the March quarter 2008, an increase of 4.6% for the year to March quarter 2008. This compared to 1.3% and 4.2% respectively for the weighted average of the eight capital cities.

The groups contributing most to the 1.4% CPI increase for Canberra over March quarter 2008 were Food, Health, Transportation and Housing. Partially offsetting the increases in these groups was a decline in Recreation and a marginal decline in Clothing and footwear.

Established house prices in Canberra increased by 1.0% in the March quarter 2008 and by 14.4% annually. This compared with 1.1% for the March quarter and 13.8% annually across the weighted average of eight capital cities. Established house prices in Melbourne rose the most in the year to March 2008 (25.9%) whilst prices in Perth rose the least (0.6%).

Retail turnover in the ACT for March 2008 was \$387 million in trend terms. This was up \$2 million (0.5%) on February 2008 and up \$13 million (3%) on March 2007. Comparatively, retail turnover increased 0.2% from February 2008 to March 2008 and by 6% between March 2007 and March 2008, for Australia as a whole.

In trend terms, the number of dwelling units approved in the ACT, fell by 13 (8%) in March 2008 to 157, from 170 in February 2008.

[Taxation Revenue, Australia](#) (cat. no. 5506.0) 2006-07, was released on 15 April 2008. In the 2006-07 financial year, average tax per capita was \$2,761 (excluding Commonwealth Government taxes) in the ACT. This was up over \$400 (17%) per annum on 2005-06, but below the average across all states and territories (\$2,792).

The chain volume measure for state final demand (SFD) rose by 0.2% (trend) in December quarter 2007. This compares with a rise of 1.1% in domestic final demand (DFD).

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LATEST NEWS

Water usage and restrictions:

The ACT has been under mandatory water restrictions since December 2002. During this time, the total annual water consumption, measured by [ActewAGL](#), has dropped. In the 2002-03 financial year the ACT's total annual water consumption was 65,569 ML, declining to 51,062 ML in 2006-07.

As at May 2008, stage 3 water restrictions apply within the ACT, with an Autumn target of 112 ML per day. During summer 2007-08, the water consumption target was 139 ML per day - the average consumption recorded during this time was 127 ML per day.

Climate and rainfall

The [Bureau of Meteorology](#) (BoM) recorded 565.8mm of rainfall at Canberra Airport during 2007. This was approximately 57mm below the historical annual average of 632.2mm. The wettest months of 2007 were February, June, November and December, with more than 90mm of rainfall recorded in each of these months.

According to the BoM, 2007 was the warmest year on record in terms of average annual mean temperatures. The average minimum temperature recorded at Canberra Airport was 8.3°C, while the average maximum temperature recorded was 21.2°C.

The coldest temperature recorded in 2007 was -4.7°C (recorded on 17 July), while the hottest was 40.5°C (recorded on 12 January).

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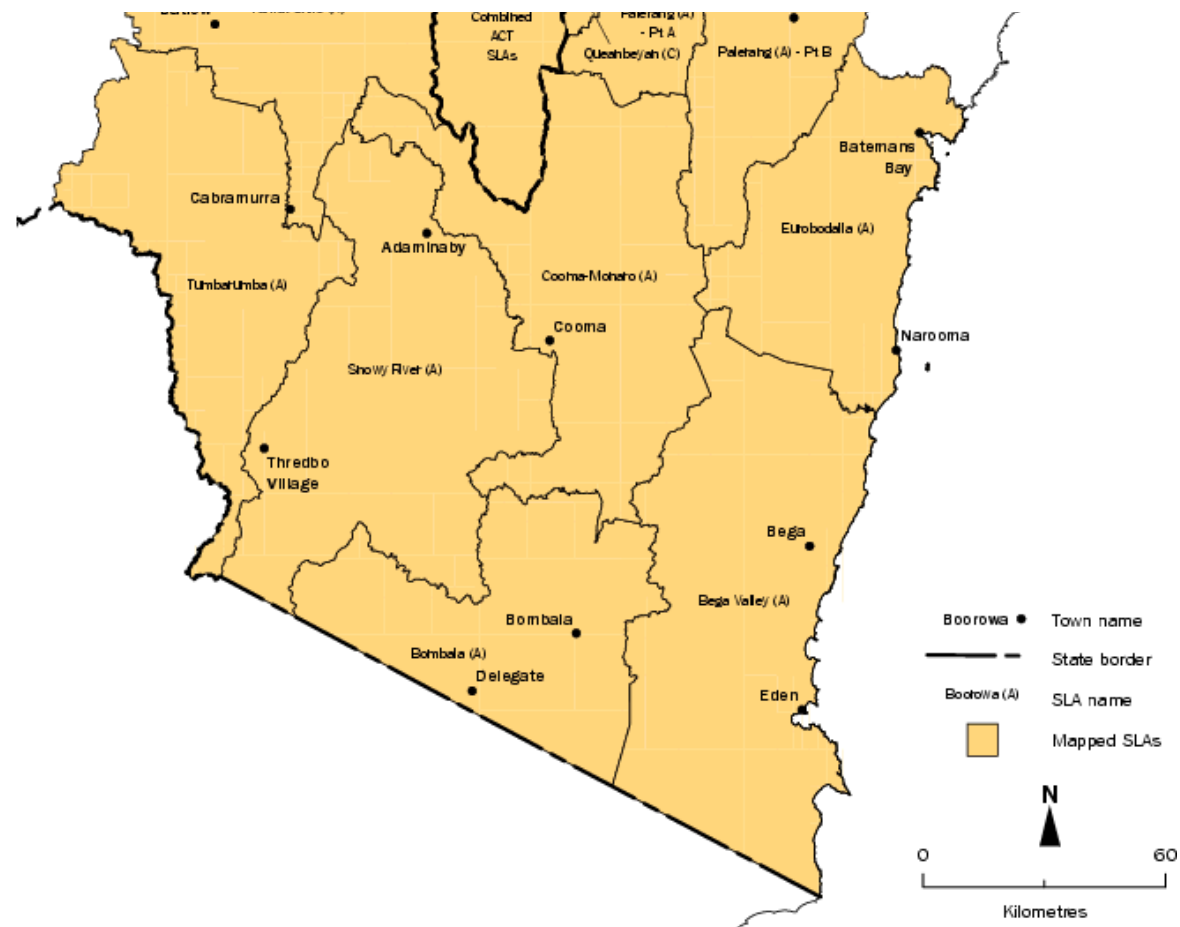
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MAP OF THE REGION





Population

ESTIMATED RESIDENT POPULATION^(a), Australian Capital Region - by Statistical Local Area

2007 persons	
Australian Capital Territory	
Acton	p1 938
Ainslie	p5 054
Braddon	p3 873
Campbell	p3 310

City	p767
Dickson	p2 077
Downer	p3 533
Duntroon	p1 770
Hackett	p2 972
Kowen	p49
Lyneham	p4 732
Majura	p125
O'Connor	p5 244
Reid	p1 673
Russell	p -
Turner	p3 354
Watson	p4 474
Aranda	p2 492
Belconnen Town Centre	p3 241
Belconnen - SSD Bal	p43
Bruce	p3 922
Charnwood	p3 148
Cook	p2 968
Dunlop	p6 480
Evatt	p5 686
Florey	p5 265
Flynn	p3 631
Fraser	p2 222
Giralang	p3 364
Hawker	p2 959
Higgins	p3 163
Holt	p4 907
Kaleen	p7 867
Latham	p3 825
McKellar	p2 826
Macgregor	p3 618
Macquarie	p2 516
Melba	p3 434
Page	p2 777
Scullin	p2 874
Spence	p2 718
Weetangera	p2 668
Chifley	p2 374
Curtin	p5 359
Farrer	p3 504

Garran	p3 342
Hughes	p3 047
Isaacs	p2 509
Lyons	p2 524
Mawson	p2 993
O'Malley	p748
Pearce	p2 579
Phillip	p2 008
Torrens	p2 331
Chapman	p2 810
Duffy	p3 132
Fisher	p3 120
Holder	p2 733
Rivett	p3 190
Stirling	p2 117
Stromlo	p65
Waramanga	p2 601
Weston	p3 294
Weston Creek-Stromlo - SSD Bal	p16
Banks	p5 176
Bonython	p3 462
Calwell	p6 063
Chisholm	p5 458
Conder	p5 309
Fadden	p3 288
Gilmore	p2 954
Gordon	p8 109
Gowrie	p3 296
Greenway	p1 217
Isabella Plains	p4 406
Kambah	p16 083
Macarthur	p1 594
Monash	p5 639
Oxley	p1 855
Richardson	p3 305
Theodore	p4 167
Tuggeranong - SSD Bal	p66
Wanniassa	p8 207
Barton	p1 058
Deakin	p2 680
Forrest	p1 275

Fyshwick	p55
Griffith	p4 213
Harman	p98
Hume	p4
Jerrabomberra	p12
Kingston	p2 824
Narrabundah	p5 747
Oaks Estate	p250
Parkes	p6
Pialligo	p117
Red Hill	p3 254
Symonston	p479
Yarralumla	p3 031
Amaroo	p6 115
Gungahlin	p4 681
Gungahlin-Hall - SSD Bal	p17
Hall	p354
Harrison	p1 154
Mitchell	p4
Ngunnawal	p9 368
Nicholls	p7 239
Palmerston	p5 929
Remainder of ACT	p292

Australian Capital Region - remainder

Palerang (A) - Pt A	p9 906
Queanbeyan (C)	p38 593
Boorowa (A)	p2 342
Goulburn Mulwaree (A) - Goulburn	p21 021
Goulburn Mulwaree (A) Bal	p6 306
Harden (A)	p3 683
Palerang (A) - Pt B	p3 513
Upper Lachlan Shire (A)	p7 329
Yass Valley (A)	p14 112
Young (A)	p12 535
Bega Valley (A)	p32 655
Eurobodalla (A)	p36 771
Bombala (A)	p2 635
Cooma-Monaro (A)	p10 142
Snowy River (A)	p7 727

Cootamundra (A)	p7 527
Gundagai (A)	p3 813
Tumut Shire (A)	p11 238
Tumbarumba (A)	p3 672

- nil or rounded to zero (including null cells)

p preliminary figure or series subject to revision

(a) The dataset contains estimates of the resident population of Statistical Local Areas (SLAs) as at 30 June 2007. Data are preliminary for 2007, based on the results of the 2006 Census of Population and Housing. SLAs are based on the Australian Standard Geographical Classification 2007 Edition for all years. Further information about the estimates in this dataset, including advice about limitations, should be obtained from the Explanatory Notes of Regional Population Growth, Australia (cat. no. 3218.0).

Source: Regional Population Growth, Australia (cat. no. 3218.0).

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